

# BUSINESS MEN FROM ALL OVER COUNTRY DISCUSS PROHIBITION

(Continued From First Page.)

are dissatisfied with the economic and social results of Prohibition, and that an overwhelming majority wish for or in their attitude reflect the desirability of a modification of the provisions which are now in effect and of the conditions which have resulted from them.

The fifty replies represent about 75 per cent of the men who were asked to make a statement for publication. A few of the remainder lived in small villages and did not feel themselves competent to express an opinion; two refused to talk because of previous connection with the liquor traffic; others were either officials or subordinates of corporations whose policy did not permit public statements, and some frankly stated that they were afraid to give their honest opinion under their published names.

One man, a retail merchant from a small city in the Middle West, thus stated his position:

"If I should allow you to print what I really thought, and the article went back home, my store would be black-listed. We have a small but extremely determined anti-liquor organization, which would brand me as a 'liquor man,' a term which certainly is not merited."

On another occasion the hotel room telephone was answered by a very resolute lady, who insisted on knowing the nature of the intended interview with her husband, and then replied: "He's here, but you can't talk to him about Prohibition—most certainly not."

An analysis of the fifty replies shows that the majority of the men interviewed regard the saloon with disfavor; some, however, prefer the status quo to present condition. Thirty of the fifty either assert that Prohibition has hurt business, has been harmful to the community, or that liquor is so abundant that the law makes no difference to those who wish to buy it.

**PROHIBITION CREATES BOOT-LEGGING AND LAWLESSNESS.**

Seven men discount the effect of Prohibition. Of these, four say that it has not helped business; one that it has done good, has also created boot-legging and lawlessness, but the present law should be modified; another has profited by Prohibition only because of the sale of articles in drug stores which formerly were sold in bars; and the seventh, from Maine, declares that the Federal law has done no more than the State Dry Law accomplished before 1919.

In a third classification come two who think that Prohibition has been a partial success, but both of these declare that persons with money have no difficulty in getting liquor.

The fourth class comprises three men who have noted considerable economic improvement since the coming of the dry law. Each of these, however, declares that public sentiment is in favor of a modification of the law to permit the sale of beer and wines.

The fifth category includes eight men who believe that Prohibition has been an excellent aid to business and has improved economic and social conditions in their respective communities. Two of these, paradoxically, it seems, come from Kentucky, the reputed stronghold of whiskey. The State of Washington is represented by favorable views from Spokane and Seattle; another man, from Buffalo, declares in part that the election of a "wet" Mayor recently did not have business support; a pastor from Minneapolis notes a laxity of enforcement, but asserts that good results have already come and that the public is against a modification; another reports an improvement in labor in Pennsylvania, and still another notes a betterment of conditions in rural and industrial communities.

To sum up: Of fifty "New Yorkers for a Day or Two," some say that Prohibition has been of "some benefit"; others condemn it without reservation; some who like the Eighteenth Amendment admit that a majority of their neighbors want to see it modified; but only eight unequivocally uphold the present law in spirit and in work.

## VIEW OF FIFTY BRAVE ENOUGH TO TALK.

The statements of the fifty men are as follows:

**C. A. AYERS, Mill Supplies, Grand Rapids, Mich., at the Astor**—I believe Prohibition has brought about a betterment of conditions for the poor. They have more to spend for other things since the passing of the saloon. The rich, however, seem to be growing crazy about liquor and drink more than in the times when it was lawfully procurable. Still, also, have come into pretty general use, but I think that this can be controlled if Prohibition continues.

**AMOS A. BETTS, Chairman Arizona Corporation Commission, Phoenix, Ariz., at the McAlpin**—Arizona went "dry" in 1914 and then "bone dry" in 1916. This State law was of great benefit in the copper mining districts, where the efficiency of labor increased about 50 per cent. The farming and ranching districts were similarly benefited, and the law and its enforcement had practically unanimous support. But national Prohibition has brought about a number of serious conditions. It has brought into Arizona, or created there, a highly undesirable element, the smugglers who are bringing liquor across the Mexican border and the bootleggers who are distributing it. The home-made product also complicates the situation and threatens to counteract the good results earlier obtained among the foreign-born population of the mining districts.

**PROPRIETARY MEDICINE BUSINESS IS INCREASING.**

**FRANK A. BLAIR, Manufacturer of Proprietary Medicines, Chicago, at the Astor**—The only effect on our business has been added collection of money. The sale of candy, soft drinks, cigars and bromo seltzer, the last two of which were formerly largely sold at bars.

**NEL F. CADIGAN, Heating Contractor, Boston, at the McAlpin**—From what I have heard around Boston, business conditions in general are worse under Prohibition.

**C. A. CASEY, Hotel Man, Scranton, Pa., at the Commodore**—I cannot see how Prohibition has helped business.

**E. R. CLARK, Retail Dry Goods, St. Paul, Minn., at the Martinique**—From my observation neither business nor the public in general has benefited from Prohibition. Beer and light wines would be a blessing and would bring an end to the many evils which are outgrowths of the Volstead Act.

**Canadian liquor is plentiful in my section and those with its price.**

**J. B. CONKLIN, Madison, Wis., at the Commodore**—In our part of the country Prohibition has been a success, especially with the laboring man who has no place to spend his money. However, it is not much of a success when we consider that those who have the price seem to get all they want.

**PROHIBITION BOOMS CALIFORNIA'S RAISIN INDUSTRY.**

**T. H. CONNORS, Merchant, Fresno, Cal., at the Martinique**—Business has never been better in our part of California because Prohibition has boomed the raisin industry and the growing of wine grapes. General sentiment appears opposed to the present Prohibition law, and nearly everybody "makes his own" openly, and without interference.

**E. A. CONRAD, Real Estate, Milwaukee, at the Astor**—It has been a bad thing for our part of the country. We needed regulation, such as exists in foreign countries, with no saloons and no treating, but permits for sale in hotels and restaurants. The Volstead Act should be changed so that light wines and beer could be sold in proper places. Whiskey is not essential, except for medicinal purposes, and for those it is certainly necessary.

**THOMAS K. CREAL, Furniture Manufacturer, Warren, Pa., at the McAlpin**—Prohibition has had little effect on business except where labor is concerned. Labor conditions are better and workmen are doing better work than before. There are law violations and we are up against the same problems as the rest of the country, but public opinion is supporting the law.

**MYER DAVIDOW, Real Estate Operator, Scranton, Pa., at the Astor**—In our particular section Prohibition has done good as well as created evil. It has done good in that it has eliminated the corner saloon—a wonderful thing for the working men and their families. The evil effects are the bootlegging and violations of law in total disregard of the amendment to the Constitution. Prohibition has made millions of bootleggers and the Government has been deprived of millions in revenue. A moderate Prohibition, permitting the sale of light wines and beer, would, to my mind, be an excellent solution of the problem.

**H. P. DEWEY, Pastor Plymouth Church, Minneapolis, at the Commodore**—We of Minnesota see laxity of enforcement as one does everywhere, but on the whole I think the law is working well. Its good results, as

reflected in business and the public welfare, outweigh the bad. I believe that the sentiment in my section is against beer and wines.

**"PROHIBITION IS RUINING THE COUNTRY."**

**JOSEPH M. DUSKIN, Motion Pictures, Cleveland, at the Astor**—I think Prohibition is ruining the country with its attendant bootlegging and bad liquor, which kills and causes other misfortunes. In my opinion it would work no harm if beer and wines were permitted. The workingmen are dissatisfied because they can not obtain them and many pay far more than they can afford for very inferior liquor.

**B. P. FOSTER, Manufacturer, Philadelphia, at the Waldorf**—Prohibition has created and alone is responsible for much of the unrest of the present time. It has hurt business, caused unemployment, corruption and disrespect for law. Prohibition is a menace to the country; nothing can be legislated out of existence without the moral backing of the people involved.

**CHARLES FLYNN, Business Promoter, Boston and Havana, at the Biltmore**—Your question is interesting; it is the topic of the day. You hear all about it but I am sure it would take a long time for Prohibition to be popular in America. The prohibitionists went at it in the wrong way; they were entirely too drastic. Of course certain kinds of business have improved, but what we want is strict enforcement of law. I do not think that that can be accomplished.

**D. H. FRIEDMAN, Business Man, Albany, at the Biltmore**—I do not think that Prohibition has helped business.

**J. W. GLENN, Wholesale Confectionery, Buffalo, at the McAlpin**—Business is conducted on a sounder basis as a result of Prohibition. There is less drinking, but plenty of liquor is obtainable in Buffalo because of that city's proximity to Canada. Though Buffalo has elected a former brewer as Mayor, who favors modification of the present law, the business interests of the city are giving the Eighteenth Amendment unqualified support. The Mayor's campaign was concentrated on the great foreign-born population of Buffalo but even with this huge support he was elected by only 1,200 votes.

**JOHN S. GORDON, Standard Oil Co. of California, San Francisco, at the Waldorf**—Business has been better in San Francisco with Prohibition. Wage earners are saving more, and bankers and merchants attribute this to the abolition of saloons. But there is plenty of liquor in the city, and the Eighteenth Amendment is regarded lightly. The opinion is general that a modification of the present law will be necessary before public support can be gained.

**"PROHIBITION HAS FAILED TO PROHIBIT."**

**HORACE GLADSTONE, cigar manufacturer, Los Angeles, at the Waldorf**—Prohibition has had no noticeable effect on general business in Los Angeles, the city which now people involved.

neat has fallen off in practically all hotels in the country because of Prohibition, or what is known as "Prohibition."

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